

Message

From: Winiecki, Eric [Winiecki.Eric@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/21/2020 8:58:10 PM
To: Baron, Adam [Baron.Adam@epa.gov]; Contreras, Peter [Contreras.Peter@epa.gov]; Kenknight, Jeff [Kenknight.Jeff@epa.gov]; Dunbar, Bill [dunbar.bill@epa.gov]; MacIntyre, Mark [Macintyre.Mark@epa.gov]; Johnson, Patrick [johnson.patrick@epa.gov]; Thurmon, Clarke [Thurmon.Clarke@epa.gov]; Steiner-Riley, Cara [Steiner-Riley.Cara@epa.gov]
CC: Sturman, Mary [Sturman.Mary@epa.gov]; Rife, Annette M. [rife.annette@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: EPA petition asks for emergency action on tainted drinking water in Eastern Oregon

The City of Boardman, population 3500, appears to be generally downgradient of the 30k-cow dairy that has been proposed to be re-opened, and which the citizens have expressed concern about. If the data below is correct, Boardman's well(s) are vulnerable to anthropogenic nitrate contamination, although they don't appear to ever have exceeded the MCL.

I have heard that Three Mile Canyon Dairy, nearby and a bit to the west, has about 100k cows and downgradient groundwater monitoring wells at about 100 gm/L nitrate-N (nitrate MCL is 10). My understanding is that Oregon plans to require the 30k-cow dairy to install monitoring wells too.

From: Baron, Adam <Baron.Adam@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 12:12 PM
To: Contreras, Peter <Contreras.Peter@epa.gov>; Kenknight, Jeff <Kenknight.Jeff@epa.gov>; Dunbar, Bill <dunbar.bill@epa.gov>; MacIntyre, Mark <Macintyre.Mark@epa.gov>; Winiecki, Eric <Winiecki.Eric@epa.gov>; Johnson, Patrick <johnson.patrick@epa.gov>; Thurmon, Clarke <Thurmon.Clarke@epa.gov>; Steiner-Riley, Cara <Steiner-Riley.Cara@epa.gov>
Cc: Sturman, Mary <Sturman.Mary@epa.gov>; Rife, Annette M. <rife.annette@epa.gov>
Subject: EPA petition asks for emergency action on tainted drinking water in Eastern Oregon

All –

FYI Carol King brought up this petition on the nat'l call. She clarified there's no specific regulatory framework for such emergency petitions to EPA, but other regions have received something similar. I asked her to provide us background on other regional responses and how HQ would weigh in. I checked the data for some of the public water systems cited on page 14 of the petition, and put into the chart below. So far it looks like yes, these systems have a history of nitrate contamination but OHA has responded adequately to abate the threat and got their nitrate numbers below the MCL. But we'll still do a full data review, and, of course, we don't have data on the private wells.

Also, since the nat'l call, I've received a couple emails from colleagues in other regions asking us to update them on our response since they have nitrates in their states too. I think we should plan to do a quick meeting to talk through next steps and at a minimum prepare a desk statement since this story was already in the local paper (see below). I'll send out a scheduler.

Let me know if you have other thoughts.

Thanks.

PWS Name	Current Nitrate/Nitrate	MCL cited Date	ETT Score
Alive and Well	5.64 on 2/19	10.2 on 4/06	1
Bellinger Produce	4.76 on 1/20	50s, multiple samples in 10/19. Also history range from 20-28 in 11/18 and 1/19, 10/15, 3/14	0 – under an Admin Order for Nitrate MCL since 12/18
City of Boardman	1.86 on 4/15	7.5 on 2/03	0
Comfort Inn	No detect on 12/19	History of range from 7 to 12 from 5/15 back to 06	0

Statesman Journal / Jan 16, 2020

<https://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/2020/01/16/enviromental-protection-agency-oregon-contaminated-water/4470231002/>

EPA petition asks for emergency action on tainted drinking water in Eastern Oregon

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